

SUPPLEMENT TO THE



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CUTEC accompanies Christian Wulff, Minister-President of Lower Saxony, to South Africa

A business delegation led by the Minister-President of the German Federal State of Lower Saxony, Christian Wulff, visited South Africa between 3rd and 10th April 2006. Mr Wulff aimed at strengthening economic contacts as well as intensifying the partnership established with the Province of Eastern Cape eleven years ago. Both Lower Saxony and Eastern Cape are rather provincial but have automotive production centres, though. For years, both regions have been cooperating on the vocational and capacity building sector, which resulted in partnerships between colleges in South Africa and vocational schools in Lower Saxony. The cooperation of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and Walter Sisulu University with universities in Lower Saxony are further examples.



Premier Ms. ZNB Balindlela cordially welcomes the delegation at the airport

Manager International Operations, Dr.-Ing. Theodore Onyeche, represented CUTEC in this 30-member delegation, which comprised of business stakeholders and academic representatives from Lower Saxony. The delegation was received and cordially welcomed at Port Elizabeth airport by Eastern Cape Premier Ms. ZNB Balindlela, Nelson Mandela Bay Executive Mayor Ms. Nondumiso Maphazi and the German Ambassador to South Africa, Mr. Harro Adt as well as several members



Visit to Volkswagen plant in Uitenhage

of the Executive Council (MEC) also present at the subsequent press conference. In the afternoon, the trip started with visit to the VW plant in Uitenhage, South Africa. In South Africa, Volkswagen as well as DaimlerChrysler produces tens of thousand cars for export annually. In the evening, the delegation was hosted by the company Schnellecke. Their former president, Rolf Schnellecke, who is also the current mayor of Wolfsburg, Germany was also part of the delegation. In Wolfsburg, the company Schnellecke works for Volkswagen and in Uitenhage it manages the group's logistics. Several well-known companies such as Conti-tyres, Steinhoff-furniture and Daun-textiles are located in South Africa. All in all companies from Lower Saxony have created approx. 12,000 jobs in this region. The next day, the deep-sea trade port at Coega and the Coega Industrial Development Zone were visited before proceeding to East London. In East London, negotiations with Premier ZNB Balindlela and her cabinet on key aspects of the partnership and Eastern Cape's economic development as well as a visit to DaimlerChrysler South Africa were carried out. From East London, the delegation flew to Umtata and drove by bus to Qunu, where Nelson

Mandela spent his childhood. For Christian Wulff, Nelson Mandela, "South Africa's great old man", is an outstanding personality and idol that he already admired as a boy. In Qunu, Mr. Wulff and Ms. Balindlela inaugurated the Arts and craft school Itemba funded by the State of Lower Saxony. Afterwards, Wulff visited the Nelson Mandela museum. In Johannesburg, the German Ambassador Harro Adt hosted the delegation at a evening reception held at the Goethe institute. During a visit to the German-South African Chamber of Foreign Trade, the participants had the opportunity to talk to South African business and political representatives. Wulff, who was forced to cut the trip short due to the Elbe flood in Lower Saxony, was given a great honour during a traditional ceremony on the previous day: he was traditionally baptized and named "Langa Liphumile", which means "The sun has risen". In Cape Town, the last leg of the trip, the German Consul General Axel Schwartz welcomed the visitors. In the evening a book titled "The place and role of local government



Minister-President Wulff (Langa Liphumile) and CUTEC's Manager International Operations after the ceremony

in federal systems" was presented to a great audience by Prof. Nico Steytler. This event was organised by the German Konrad Adenauer foundation in Cape Town. Prof. Steytler is the director of the Community Law Centre of Western Cape University, a research and advocacy institute. This institute works for implementing democratic values and human rights set in the South African constitution and focuses mainly on Local Government. Before flying back to Germany, the delegation visited the Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent many years imprisoned. The prison is now a museum, managed exclusively by former inmates.



Visit to DaimlerChrysler plant in East London

For Minister-President Wulff the outcome of his business trip to South Africa was entirely positive. "The eleven-year-old partnership yields fruits", says Wulff. For CUTEC the participation in this trip offered the opportunity to get a general idea of South Africa's environmental problems on-site. "Discussions with Premier Balindlela and several industrial stakeholders led to the conclusion that waste management, air pollution control, wastewater treatment and general environmental training are those areas where South Africa most urgently needs CUTEC's technical expertise" re-iterates CUTEC's Manager for International Operations, Dr. Theodore Onyeche. The German-South African Chamber of Foreign Trade promised supporting him on-site as regards project acquisition and part-implementation. Moreover, the Nelson Mandela Bay Mayor expressed her wish to visit CUTEC before end of this year. Hence, Dr. Onyeche was very satisfied with the trip and feels committed to assist South Africa and the neighbouring countries in solving the existing environment problems. Dr. Onyeche particularly praised Minister-President Wulff for his excellent leadership of the delegation with dedication, high professionalism and great sense of humour.

Dr.-Ing. Onyeche concluded enthusiastically, that after the successful business delegation trip to Mexico and USA last year led by Lower Saxony's Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Walter Hirche and now the high-value visit to South Africa led by Mr. Wulff, he is "proud to be a citizen of Lower Saxony". (he)